

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 9, and 14-16 have been amended and new Claims 17-20 have been added, all without the introduction of any new matter. With regard to new Claim 17, see, for example, pages 18 and 19 of the specification describing steps S2 and S3 of the Figure 3 flowchart. The disclosure of Figures 4 and Figures 6 are pertinent to new Claim 18.

The outstanding Office Action includes an objection to the abstract for reciting “disclosed is” and a rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is being anticipated by Adar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,702, Adar).

It is believed that the objection to the abstract should be withdrawn in view of the present amendment thereto which removes the objected to language “disclosed is.”

Before turning to the outstanding prior art rejection, it is believed that a brief review of the present invention would be helpful. In this regard, the present invention includes, in one aspect, an information processing apparatus and method for displaying associated information that corresponds to a present event. This apparatus and method includes acquiring associated information using existing information that corresponds with a past event along with event occurrence detection means that detects the occurrence of the present event. A search is made of existing information having a similarity to the information corresponding to the detected present event and a display of the associated information that is related to the existing information retrieved by the search is the result.

In another aspect of the present invention, an information processing method and program are presented that includes extracting attributed information from an existing text file and selecting an important word from among words contained in that existing textile. Associated information related to the important word is then acquired and used to construct a database that could be alternately constructed using the associated information acquired in the acquiring step. The occurrence of an event is then detected as is a key word from the text file that corresponds to the event detected in this event occurrence detecting step. The database is searched for the associated information that corresponds to the key word detected in word detecting step and a display of that associated information retrieved in the searching step is then performed.

Other aspects of the present invention include a similar processing apparatus method, and computer readable program incorporating the method which all operate along similar lines but search the database for associated information by searching a previously processed existing file that corresponds to the key word detected in the key word detecting step.

Turning to the outstanding anticipation rejection of Claims 1-16 over Adar, it is first noted that Adar simply discloses that an HTML document is retrieved using a key word query or the frequency and recency of access, as one alternative. This is done through bookmark searches as described in columns 7-9 thereof. When column 12, lines 35-59 discusses the database 120 that monitors the popularity of each document referred to in each user's bookmark collection, it is relative to trackable performance that can use something such as frequency and recency of access. Thus, every time the bookmark is used by a user,

the time, date, and nature of that access is logged. See, column 12, lines 42-44. While it is suggested that various different data can be extracted from documents by the database 120, such as information on the date and time a document was created, the author of the document, and search key words, no where does Adar suggest searching for existing information corresponding to a past event based upon its similarity to information corresponding to a present event. Accordingly, it is clear that Claim 1, and Claims 2-6 and 17-20 that depend on Claim 1, all clearly define over anything fairly taught or suggested by Adar.

Turning to Claim 7, it is noted that page 5 of the outstanding Office Action appears to pick unrelated isolated disclosures from Adar and then seeks to combine them as if they were taught by the reference to be combinable. Note, for example, the rationale begins by referencing column 24, lines 35-44 which is part of Claim 59 of Adar directed to an information repository search engine. Here, the Office Action suggests that the event that has taken place can be read on receiving "at least a key word query." Instead of staying with Claim 59 and correlating the terms therein to the remainder of Claims 7 and 8, the Office Action then turns to column 12, lines 48-59 as to the step of extracting attribute information from an existing text file. In this regard, it appears that the search key words feature described here is being relied on. However, Claim 7 and Claim 8 both include a separate step of "selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file." It appears from the rationale presented in page 5 that the two separate "extracting" and "selecting" steps are being improperly conglomerated together so that the "extracting" of the

attribute information from the existing text file is being read to exactly correspond to the “selecting” an important word from among words contained in the existing text file.

Claims 7 and 8 go on to require the acquiring of associated information that is related to the important words selected in the selecting step that the outstanding Office Action attempts to equate to the teachings of column 12, lines 36-59 and a rationale that “acquiring” reads on “access the document.” However, this step requires “acquiring said associated information related to said important word selected in selecting step,” not simply accessing a document.

Furthermore, the rationale as to the subject matter of Claims 7 and 8 appears to attempt to equate the claimed “associated information” with the disclosure of the trackable nature of the system which can use frequency and recency of access. However, if this information is to be used in searching, the extracting of attribute information and important words would appear to be superfluous. Even assuming that a database could be constructed using the search for the popularity metric of frequency and recency of access, the manner that the detecting the occurrence of said event is being read on access, as at page 6 of the outstanding Office Action, is not clear. In this regard, this event has already been read on the receiving of the key word query input of Claim 59 of Adar on page 5 of the outstanding Office Action. Accessing and receiving are clearly not the same events. Accordingly, the improper cobbling together of unrelated teachings is clear as is the lack of any suggestion in Adar that these unrelated events can be combined.

Moreover, searching the database constructed in the database constructing step for associated information corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step would not be met if a search was being conducted based upon the previously relied upon frequency and recency of access.

It is well established that in order for anticipation to exist, a single prior art reference must not only disclose each and every element being claimed, these elements must be disclosed to be present in the claimed arrangement. See In re Bond, 15 USPQ 2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990); Lindemann Maschinen Fabrik GMBH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481 (Fed. Cir. 1984); and Ex parte Gould, 6 USPQ 2d 1680 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1987). As fully explained in Ex parte Osmond, 191 USPQ 334, 336 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1973), there must be something in a patent disclosure which would direct a person of ordinary skill in the art to make the selections necessary to bring together the separate elements to form the combination being relied upon. As no such teaching is present here, the reliance upon Adar as anticipating Claims 7 and 8 is clearly improper.

With further regard to independent Claims 9, 15 and 16, the above-noted arguments as to the improper combining of isolated disclosures with no teaching that there is any interrelationship between the combined features is again believed to be relevant. It is also noted that the "searching" required in these claims is now specifically stated to be a search for associated information made by searching a database "for a previously processed existing file." Adar contains no such teaching or suggestion.

Appln. No. 09/785,204

Reply to Office Action of 01/16/03

As Claims 10-14 depend upon Claim 9, these claims should be considered patentable for the same reasons that independent Claim 9 is. In addition, each of these claims set forth further features that are clearly not taught or suggested by Adar and should be considered patentable for this reason as well.

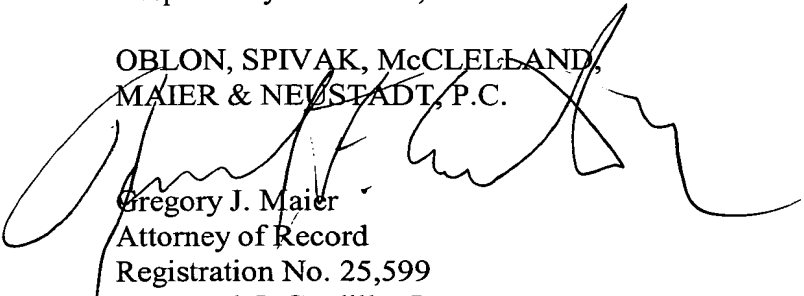
Similarly, Claims 2-6 and 14-20 are all dependent upon Claim 1 and should be considered patentable at least for the above-noted reasons presented as to Claim 1. In addition, as each of these claims present further features that are not taught or suggested by Adar, these claims should be further considered patentable for this reason as well.

Appln. No. 09/785,204
Reply to Office Action of 01/16/03

As no other issues are believed to remain outstanding relative to this application, it is believed to be clear that this application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to this effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax No.: (703) 413-2220
RFC/law

I:\atty\rfc\203391US6-AM.WPD